

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: A device for performing liquid phase microextraction of at least one analyte that comprises of a liquid membrane comprising of a fatty acid ester where the fatty acid ester comprises of an acyl chain of 12 to 30 carbon atoms. Furthermore, a device for liquid phase microextraction that comprises of a preservative or a mixture of silicone oil and at least one of a fatty acid ester, a vegetable oil or a nitroarylalkylether.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTINE T. MUI whose telephone number is (571)270-3243. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Walter Griffin can be reached on (571) 272-1447. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CTM

/Walter D. Griffin/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1797